# Providing Breastfeeding Support: Model Hospital Policy Recommendations

Update: June, 1999



# THE BREASTFEEDING COALITION OF THE INLAND EMPIRE & INLAND COUNTIES REGIONAL PERINATAL PROGRAM

# PROVIDING BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT: MODEL HOSPITAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Update: June, 1999

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# **Model Policy Committee**

Lila Bergman, RN, CLE, CLC, Maternity Staff Nurse Kaiser Permanente Medical Center

Elizabeth Creer, RN, FNP, MPH, Family Nurse Practitioner Wellstart International

> Amy Gonzalez, RN, CLC, Parent Educator St. Bernardine Medical Center

Suzanne Haydu, MPH, RD, Maternal and Child Health Branch State of California Department of Health Services

Joyce Heitmeier, RNC, Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist Community Hospital of San Bernardino

Chairperson, Carolyn Lopez Melcher, RNC, MPH, CLE Regional Perinatal Program Coordinator Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Pat Spier, RNC, BSN, Perinatal Nurse Manager San Bernardino County Medical Center

Marlene Steinweg, MPH, Health Educator San Bernardino County Public Health Department

Aida Rodriguez, NNP, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner San Bernardino County Medical Center

## **Model Policy Revision Committee**

Gretchen Andrews, BA, IBCLC, The Lactation Connection Inland Midwife Services

Debbie Edwards, RN, IBCLC, Rancho Springs Medical Center, Murrieta

Donna E. Erlewine, MSN, CLE, Lactation Coordinator Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Penny Gibbs, PNP, CLC, Pediatric Clinic Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Fontana

Laurie Haessly, MA, RD, IBCLC, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) County of Riverside, Department of Public Health, WIC Program

> Mary Anna Heywood, RN, CPSP Manager Redlands Community Hospital

Chairperson, Carolyn Lopez Melcher, RNC, MPH, CLE Regional Perinatal Program Coordinator Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

> Kathleen O'Connell, LVN Hollister Incorporated

Raylene Phillips, MA, CLC Infant Development, Lactation Consultant

Aida Rodriguez, NNP, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

Sue Schaul, RN, BHS, Perinatal Nurse Manager Moreno Valley Community Hospital

Marlene Steinweg, MPH, Health Educator San Bernardino County Public Health Department

Debbie Tweedy-Wolfe, RN, CLE, IBCLC John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Indio

Nancy Wolfe, RN, BS, Inland Counties Regional Perinatal Program Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Jeri Zevenbergen, MPH, RD, CLE, Breastfeeding Coordinator San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health, WIC Program

## A Special Thanks to:

Kay Dewey, PhD, Professor, Department of Nutrition University of California, Davis

Suzanne Haydu, MPH, RD, Maternal and Child Health Branch State of California Department of Health Services

Kathleen Huggins, RN, MS

Chele Marmet, BS, MA, IBCLC The Lactation Institute, Los Angeles

Audrey Naylor, MD Wellstart International, San Diego

Laurie Pennings, MS, RD California Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Branch

> Debbie Pierce, RN, IBCLC Butte County Public Health

Jan Porter, RD, MPH California Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Branch

> Marilyn Schuster, California Children Services San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department

Bruce Smith, MD, MPH, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Medical Officer San Bernardino County Department of Public Health

> Patty Pasquarella, MS, RD, Licensing and Certification Division State of California Department of Health Services

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# **Editing provided by:**

Health Net, Provider Communications Department Carolyn Beth Smith, MLISc

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#### INTRODUCTION

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that breastmilk is the optimal food for infants. Numerous professional organizations actively encourage breastfeeding including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses and the American Dietetic Association.

This document was originally compiled by a local coalition as an exercise in the development of breastfeeding policies based on scientific data. They are shared to assist and support hospital systems in their efforts to replicate this process and better support breastfeeding. Because most babies are born in the hospital, there is a clear opportunity for hospital personnel to affect the initiation of breastfeeding as well as the education and support of breastfeeding mother/infant pairs, which will increase the duration of this health enhancing, cost saving practice.

These model policies are intended to be used as a framework that should be molded to fit each particular setting. This should be done through a review of the literature by local committees who will implement the resulting policies. These recommendations apply to normal, full-term infants and are not intended to apply to the specific needs of high-risk infants.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions and wish you well in your efforts to offer the best support for mothers and infants.

Carolyn Lopez Melcher, RNC, MPH, CLE Regional Perinatal Program Coordinator

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT AND

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF HOSPITAL POLICIES ON BREASTFEEDING

- 1. Create an interdisciplinary team to review and strengthen breastfeeding policies. This team should include members who:
  - a. support breastfeeding
  - b. understand the breastfeeding process
  - c. represent the cultures of the community they serve.
- 2. Revise hospital breastfeeding policies as they come up for review.
- 3. Review the literature prior to making recommendations to the hospital policy committee.
- 4. Recognize that these policy recommendations are intended to be a guide and should be adapted to fit your hospital's needs. The Breastfeeding Coalition of the Inland Empire has made broad recommendations that may not fit every situation.
- 5. Implementation of new or revised policies should be accompanied by staff education, patient education materials and ongoing support and reinforcement of the new policies.

Breastfeeding Coalition of the Inland Empire

## SUMMARY OF MODEL HOSPITAL POLICIES

#### **PURPOSE:**

These model policies are designed to give basic information and guidance to perinatal professionals wishing to revise policies that affect the breastfeeding mother. The rationale and references are included as education for those unfamiliar with current breastfeeding recommendations. When no reference was available, the interventions noted are considered to be best practice as determined by consensus of the Breastfeeding Coalition of the Inland Empire.

#### Policy #1:

Establish a strategy that promotes and supports breastfeeding through formation of an interdisciplinary, culturally appropriate team comprised of hospital administrators, medical staff, nursing staff, a lactation specialist/consultant and nutrition staff. The team should seek information and advice from local experts and patients using the services. Technical assistance from a community lactation expert can be used to support this process. This team will be responsible for:

- implementing hospital policies
- ensuring training of all staff
- providing ongoing education
- performing an evaluation based on guidelines similar to the *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative Guidelines and Criteria*

#### Policy #2:

All pregnant women will receive information, prior to birth, following birth, and before discharge regarding the benefits and management of breastfeeding. This information will include how to maintain lactation when separated from their infants. All classes and teaching materials will be considerate of the woman's cultural background, education and language.

#### Policy #3:

All mothers will have documented in the obstetric chart a complete breast exam and will receive anticipatory guidance for any condition that could affect breastfeeding (for example, inverted nipples, breast pathology, or prior breast surgery).

#### Policy #4:

Mothers will be encouraged to exclusively breastfeed. During the hospital stay, nursing staff will perform breastfeeding evaluations and monitor the infant's urine and meconium output. All breastfeeding mothers and their newborns should be seen by a pediatrician or other knowledgeable health care practitioner 48-72 hours after discharge.

#### Policy #5:

Assuming that the baby and mother are stable, the mother and baby will be skin-to-skin during the first several hours following birth. This includes the post-cesarean mother and baby. The baby will be encouraged to breastfeed ad lib without restriction. Nursing policies and practices will support care of the mother and infant together.

#### Policy #6:

Every mother will be instructed in proper breastfeeding technique and assessed for proper latch-on at birth and at least once every 8 hours while in the hospital. When an assessment (for example, FAIB or LATCH) identifies a dysfunction or the infant displays signs of inadequate intake, a lactation consultation will be ordered.

#### Policy #7:

Within the first 24-48 hours following birth, if feedings at the breast are incomplete, ineffective, or the mother is separated from her infant, the mother will be instructed to begin regular pumping of her breasts, with continued assistance by an experienced staff member. The colostrum or breastmilk obtained will be given to the baby unless contraindicated.

#### Policy #8:

Pacifiers will not be given to breastfeeding infants.

#### Policy #9:

Supplementary water or artificial infant milk will not be given to breastfeeding infants unless specifically ordered for a clinical condition by the physician. Maternal consent specifying the risks of introducing artificial infant milk to the newborn will be required prior to beginning artificial feeding of any infant.

#### Policy #10:

Infants should remain at the mother's bedside both day and night. The nurse should plan with the mother and family for periods of rest and sleep.

#### Policy #11:

At discharge, each mother will be referred to a breastfeeding support group and given the telephone number of a lactation specialist/consultant or community resource for breastfeeding assistance. Commercial advertising or promotional packs should not be given to any mother whether bottle-feeding or breastfeeding.

#### Policy # 12

Hospital administration will foster formation of breastfeeding support groups.

Establish a strategy that promotes and supports breastfeeding through formation of an interdisciplinary, culturally appropriate team comprised of hospital administrators, medical staff, nursing staff, a lactation specialist/consultant and nutrition staff. The team should seek information and advice from local experts and patients using the services. Technical assistance from a community lactation expert can be used to support this process. This team will be responsible for:

- implementing hospital policies
- ensuring training of all staff
- providing ongoing education
- performing an evaluation based on guidelines similar to the *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative Guidelines and Criteria*

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Concerned individuals should join together to reduce institutional barriers to breastfeeding, such as mother-infant separation, fragmentation of care and routine supplementation with formula.	A multidisciplinary task force can bring a variety of perspectives and a research base to institutional breastfeeding policies. <sup>2,8,9,10</sup>
Interdisciplinary team members should be aware of the International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes.	International concern exists regarding the marketing practices of infant formula manufacturers. Accepting educational grants, teaching materials, gratuities and gifts from formula companies may indirectly endorse infant formula. <sup>1, 11, 12</sup>
A designated healthcare professional should be responsible for assessing needs, planning, implementing, evaluating and periodically updating competency-based training in breastfeeding for all staff caring for mothers, infants, and/or children.	Ongoing training is essential to maintain staff competency. The level of competency required and/or needed should be based on staff functions, responsibilities, and previously acquired training, and should include documentation that essential competencies have been mastered. <sup>3,5</sup>

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
All hospital departments serving mothers, infants and/or children will have written breastfeeding policies that are routinely communicated to all health care staff.	Ongoing reinforcement of policies is essential to maintaining competence. <sup>4</sup>
Nurses coming in contact with mothers, infants or children will receive standardized education and training on the support and management of lactation. Lactation management will be included as part of orientation as well as included as part of ongoing training and competency evaluation for both nurses and physicians.	Training can assist nurses in using common terms and standard recommendations. Mothers are often confused and frustrated when receiving varying advice. Eighteen hours of education (15 didactic, 3 clinical) is the minimum amount of lactation training recommended by the World Health Organization. Breastfeeding management courses are available. <sup>6,7</sup>

# POLICY #1 REFERENCES

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All pregnant women will receive information, prior to birth, following birth, and before discharge regarding the benefits and management of breastfeeding. This information will include how to maintain lactation when separated from their infants. All classes and teaching materials will be considerate of the woman's cultural background, education and language.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
All pregnant women and their partners will be informed of and encouraged to attend a breastfeeding class during the prenatal period.	Knowledge and support improve the breastfeeding experience. Most women make their decision about breastfeeding long before delivery. <sup>1,5,8,10,11,12</sup>
Nurses caring for mothers and infants will provide appropriate education using techniques such as one-to-one teaching, group classes, pamphlets and/or video taped instruction.	Pamphlets can be used by the breastfeeding specialist and nursing staff for one-to-one patient education. This provides consistency of information given by nursing staff and provides a similar frame of reference. The mother can refer to educational materials during and after her hospital stay to reinforce learning. 6,9,13
Classes, pamphlets and videos will be considerate of the woman's cultural background, education and language.	Health educators who understand the cultural and socioeconomic context of infant feeding practices of the women they serve may be able to provide clients with health education and care that is more relevant. <sup>3,11</sup>
Materials that promote the use of commercial products known to interfere with breastfeeding will not be used to teach breastfeeding.	Due to the potential conflict of interest, all materials used for breastfeeding promotion and education need to be produced by institutions and agencies dedicated primarily to promoting breastfeeding. <sup>5,10</sup>
Teaching methods will be tailored to the age of the client.	Teens may prefer alternative learning opportunities, such as field trips, games and videos when appropriate. <sup>2</sup>

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Physicians are encouraged to support breastfeeding enthusiastically as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines and educate patients accordingly (Appendix III). Many professional organizations actively encourage breastfeeding including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses and the American Dietetic Association.	Physicians can influence their patients' health behavior choices during the perinatal period. <sup>12</sup>
All mothers should be taught hand expression of breast milk prior to discharge. All mothers need to receive information about expression and pumping for anticipated and unanticipated separation from their infants.	Maintaining lactation during temporary separation is critical to the comfort and health of the lactating mother. Hand expression can be used at any time and is the method of choice for occasional or unplanned separation. Information regarding pumping should be provided in an effort to give the mother resources for future planned separations (returning to work or school). Pumping should not be encouraged during the early postpartum period when the infant is effectively suckling, unless medically indicated. <sup>7,8</sup>

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All mothers will have documented in the obstetric chart a complete breast exam and will receive anticipatory guidance for any condition that could affect breastfeeding (for example, inverted nipples, breast pathology, or prior breast surgery).

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
The provider should examine the breast to assess the following:  • previous breast surgery  • nipple protractility  • progressive breast enlargement during pregnancy  • breast pathology	Providers should identify mothers with breast abnormalities prior to birth and provide appropriate anticipatory guidance. 1,2,3,4,5

# POLICY # 3 REFERENCES

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Mothers will be encouraged to exclusively breastfeed. During the hospital stay, nursing staff will perform breastfeeding evaluations and monitor the infant's urine and meconium output. All breastfeeding mothers and their newborns should be seen by a pediatrician or other knowledgeable health care practitioner 48-72 hours after discharge.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Perinatal caregivers will educate the mother on the rationale for exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months.	Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months is associated with optimal infant growth and development. <sup>2,7,11,20,28</sup> Encouraging exclusive breastfeeding during the first few weeks aids in the establishment of an adequate milk supply and appropriate breastfeeding technique. <sup>13,14,15,29</sup> The staff will be demonstrating compliance with the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement on breastfeeding and the Surgeon General's goal for the nation. <sup>2,3,30</sup>
All mothers will be given oral explanation and written material about specific resources for follow-up. The information will include normal breastfeeding patterns and normal output of urine and stool. If the baby varies from these normal patterns the mother should know to immediately contact her health care provider.	The newborn can suffer from dehydration, hyperbilirubinemia and electrolyte imbalances if exclusive breastfeeding does not progress normally. Mothers who are encouraged to exclusively breastfeed need support and available resources in the event that early breastfeeding complications occur. 5,6,9,16,25
Mothers will be instructed to schedule a follow-up visit with their health care provider.	Exclusively breastfed newborns need a formal evaluation of breastfeeding during the first 48-72 hours after discharge. This follow-up visit should include an assessment of breastfeeding, an infant weight and a maternal interview. <sup>2,30</sup>
Nursing staff will monitor urine and meconium output during the hospital stay.	Normal newborn patterns will be recognized and appropriate follow-up will be recommended when indicated. <sup>17,18</sup>

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Perinatal caregivers will educate mothers regarding the risks of early introduction of artificial infant milk and nipples.	Mothers are likely to follow recommendations given to them by perinatal professionals. Supplementation during this time will decrease the likelihood that extended breastfeeding will occur. 13,14,15,22,30
Perinatal caregivers will share recent recommendations with new mothers regarding the specific risks of artificial infant milk.	Families may be unaware of the risks of artificial feeding for the mother and infant. Introducing artificial infant milk:  • increases the risk of diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and otitis media <sup>2,11</sup> • may not provide optimal nutritional composition for central nervous system development <sup>11,26,27</sup> • may increase the risk of juvenile diabetes <sup>2,11,27</sup> • may increase the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome <sup>2,11,27</sup> • may increase the risk of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and childhood lymphomas <sup>2,11,27</sup> • alters the flora of the baby's gut <sup>11,18</sup> • has a longer gut transit time than breastmilk and may decrease the infant's interest in nursing. <sup>17,18</sup> Introducing artificial nipples:  • may prevent optimal tooth, jaw and speech development <sup>27</sup> • may encourage the infant to suck incorrectly, since on an artificial nipple the baby will be rewarded even for an incorrect suck. This is sometimes referred to as "nipple preference". <sup>15,22</sup>

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Perinatal caregivers will share recent recommendations with new mothers regarding the specific risks of soy formulas.	Routine use of soy formulas in lieu of breastfeeding is not recommended unless there is a specific medical indication. Multiple concerns regarding soy have led the American Academy of Pediatrics to advise against the routine use of soy formulas. Specific risks of introducing soy formulas might include:  • soy is at least as allergenic as cow milk  • soy is associated with a poorer response to vaccinations  • soy-fed infants have a higher rate of illness 27,28,29
Perinatal caregivers will share recent recommendations with new mothers regarding the specific risks of early introduction of water or glucose water. Patient education should also include cautioning against the use of infant teas and electrolyte replacement fluids.	Risks of early introduction of water or glucose water to the infant might include:  • glucose water with 6 cal./oz. can give the infant a sense of fullness without providing adequate nutrition (colostrum and breastmilk provide 17-20 cal. /oz.)  13,25
	<ul> <li>water supplements have not been shown to prevent or ameliorate hyperbilirubinemia in the neonatal period<sup>17,18</sup></li> <li>higher protein levels in colostrum have</li> </ul>
	a more stabilizing effect on blood glucose levels than glucose water <sup>17,18</sup>
Perinatal caregivers will share recent recommendations with new mothers	Risks of not breastfeeding for the mother include:
regarding the specific risks to the mother of not breastfeeding.	• there is evidence to suggest that not breastfeeding increases a woman's risk of premenopausal breast cancer and ovarian cancer <sup>2,10,12,21</sup>
	• artificial milks are less economical and less convenient <sup>2,27</sup>
	• failure to breastfeed may increase the risk of postpartum bleeding due to a lack of oxytocin during the postpartum period <sup>2,12</sup>
	• there is some evidence to suggest that not breastfeeding increases a woman's risk of osteoporosis <sup>2,12</sup>

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE	
Support persons will be included in the lactation education and the decision making process.	Health care providers may influence breastfeeding by targeting people with influence over the mother's feeding choice. These may include the father of the baby, maternal grandmother or best friend.	
The mother's health status will be considered in relation to HIV serology, chemical dependency, chemotherapy treatments and other medical conditions or therapies where breastfeeding may be contraindicated. Other medical conditions may require extra counseling and supervision.	<ul> <li>Breastfeeding is contraindicated for HIV positive mothers and mothers receiving chemotherapy <sup>17,18</sup></li> <li>For other medical conditions or therapies, refer to a reliable reference to weigh the risks and benefits of breastfeeding <sup>19</sup></li> </ul>	

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Assuming that the baby and mother are stable, the mother and baby will be skin-to-skin during the first several hours following birth. This includes the post-cesarean mother and baby. The baby will be encouraged to breastfeed ad lib without restriction. Nursing policies and practices will support care of the mother and infant together.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Mothers should breastfeed during the first hour following birth. For the normal newborn this should occur prior to such interventions as: the newborn bath, glucose sticks, foot printing, and eye treatments. This includes the post-cesarean mother and baby, when alert and stable.	Suck reflex is strongest 20-30 minutes post-birth. Delaying gratification can make it difficult for the infant to learn the suckling process. Early suckling allows the infant to receive the immunologic benefits of colostrum. Colostrum also stimulates digestive peristalsis. Suckling stimulates uterine involution and inhibits bleeding for the mother. Mothers should be permitted to engage in this normal physiological process regardless of birth method, as long as medically stable. Post-cesarean mothers may still be comfortable from epidural or spinal anesthesia. Temperature stabilization will almost always occur best with the baby in skinto-skin contact on the mother's chest. 3,5,9,10,11,12,14,16
Frequency and duration of feedings at the breast should be infant-led. Non-timed feedings and cue-based offerings will be the basis for mother infant care. The infant needs to have active suckling and swallowing time at the breast during each feeding.	It often takes 1.5-2 minutes after the onset of suckling and may take as long as 6-10 minutes for oxytocin release and subsequent milk ejection reflex. Limiting suckling time has not been shown to reduce nipple soreness or trauma and may result in a decreased milk supply and a delay of lactogenesis. <sup>6,14,15</sup>
Breastfeeding during the first day of life will take priority over other events such as infant bathing, pictures, and visitors.	Restricting breastfeeding may increase the degree of physiological engorgement that occurs during the transitional milk phase. 6,13

#### INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT

#### RATIONALE

Newborns should be breastfed whenever they show signs of hunger, such as increased alertness or activity, mouthing or rooting, rapid eye movement sleep, and hand-tomouth movement. Mothers will be assisted in identifying infant's hunger cues and readiness to feed. Crying is a late sign of hunger. Breastfeeding every 1-3 hours according to baby's cues will be supported by the nursing staff. The professional staff will help mothers respond to cues, observe and document infant for signs of adequate or inadequate output. If the professional staff is concerned with the baby's output before discharge, the mother should pump with a hospital grade electric breastpump and colostrum should be fed to the infant. avoiding use of an artificial nipple.

Breastmilk is digested in approximately 90 minutes. Eight to twelve feedings every 24 hours has been associated with increased meconium passage and lower serum bilirubin levels in the infant. Infants are more organized in their behavior and will breastfeed more successfully if they are not crying. Crying is a late sign of hunger. Maternal prolactin levels fall 3 hours after breastfeeding. Frequent and early feedings enhance duration of breastfeeding and enhance milk production. It is within normal range for babies to "cluster feed," by feeding several times close together and then going several hours without feeding. Normal, healthy newborns may breastfeed every hour, or several times in one hour, during the first days of life. 1,4,5,8,9,14,15,18

The lactation specialist should discuss the importance of colostrum with the mother. After appropriate education, however, a mother who feels very uncomfortable giving colostrum should be encouraged to pump and may discard the colostrum. This may be all that is needed to ensure an adequate beginning with breastfeeding. The lactation specialist should be aware of culture differences regarding colostrum and be trained to address these issues sensitively.

Some mothers may choose not to initiate early breastfeeding due to misinformation about the nature of colostrum. Some lactation specialists have reported that encouraging mothers to express and discard a small amount of the first milk has sufficed to get breastfeeding started.<sup>2,13</sup>

Postpartum instructions for the mother will include information about "cluster feedings" and prepare her for growth spurts and other normal newborn breastfeeding patterns.

"Cluster feedings" and increased suckling time at the breast is often misinterpreted by the mother as evidence of insufficient milk. A common reason for early supplementation is the perception that frequent feedings are abnormal in the newborn. Cluster feedings and growth spurts need to be addressed early before the mother begins supplementation. 13,17

# POLICY # 5 REFERENCES

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Every mother will be instructed in proper breastfeeding technique and assessed for proper latch-on at birth and at least once every 8 hours while in the hospital. When an assessment (for example, FAIB or LATCH) identifies a dysfunction or the infant displays signs of inadequate intake, a lactation consultation will be ordered.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
The staff should assist the mother with breastfeeding and provide guidelines and support.	New mothers need consistent information and assistance in recognizing an adequate feeding. <sup>2,3,7,13</sup>
Pillows should be available to support mother's arms and bring the baby to breast level.	Nipple trauma can be prevented and nipple soreness minimized with proper attachment and positioning. Support and comfort of the mother and baby prevent fatigue and facilitate proper positioning of the baby at breast. 1,5,7,9,10,14
A functional reassessment of the infant at the breast should be performed by a trained nurse, physician, or breastfeeding specialist within 8 hours of birth by utilizing an assessment tool such as FAIB or LATCH.	This provides for early identification of latch-on difficulties, as well as, direct observation of the infant at breast to assure adequate breastfeeding prior to discharge. Scoring can be misleading and inconsistent; however, assessment tools can help the provider identify areas of needed intervention. 1,5,12,13
The perinatal nurse will respond to complaints of nipple soreness by assessing the source of the discomfort and assisting the mother in resolving the problem.	Physiological nipple tenderness occurs during the first few minutes of a feeding and eases during the same feeding. Pathological nipple soreness is considered whenever a mother complains of nipple soreness throughout an entire feeding or between feedings. <sup>4,6,14</sup>
Mother will be educated on the "supply and demand" principle of milk production.	Understanding of basic physiology enhances the lactation process. 2,3,13,18

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
The mother will be taught to recognize signs of effective sucking and listen for her baby's suckling and swallowing sounds.	Audible swallowing may be an important indicator of intake. Hearing the infant swallow is reassuring evidence that the baby is getting milk. <sup>1,5,13</sup>
Mothers will be instructed and encouraged to watch the baby's cues and breastfeed on both breasts per feeding. Staff will help mothers to recognize the infant cues that indicate readiness to feed on the other breast.	Mother and staff should be alert to infant cues indicating readiness to feed or switch breasts. Timed feedings should be avoided. Hind milk, which comes later in the feed, is what makes the baby feel satiated. Arbitrarily removing the baby from the breast when the baby is actively suckling should be avoided. Doing this does not allow the baby to get a satisfying amount of hindmilk. Mothers usually feel more comfortable after feeding from both breasts. Watching cues is integral to finding this balance. An appropriate time to offer the second breast may be when suckling slows down or the infant falls asleep at the breast. <sup>6,7,11,13</sup>

# POLICY # 6 REFERENCES

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Within the first 24-48 hours following birth, if feedings at the breast are incomplete, ineffective, or the mother is separated from her infant, the mother will be instructed to begin regular pumping of her breasts, with continued assistance by an experienced staff member. The colostrum or breastmilk obtained will be given to the baby unless contraindicated.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
The mother will be instructed in using the electric breast pump by an experienced staff member when the infant consistently demonstrates inadequate suckling or when prolonged separation of the mother and infant is expected from, for example, prematurity or illness. The mother will be given the opportunity to pump as soon after birth as medically feasible.	<ul> <li>The electric pumping system is time-saving for the mother, and piston electric pumps most closely imitate the suck cycle of the infant. 4,6,7</li> <li>Breast stimulation and breast emptying are necessary to initiate and maintain lactation. 1</li> <li>Following a protocol maintains consistency of information given to the parents.</li> </ul>
The expressed colostrum and breastmilk will be given to the infant in addition to any other supplement that may be indicated and prescribed by the physician.	This validates the mother's pumping efforts as valuable and provides added benefits to baby. 4,6,7
Discharge planning should include methods of expression of breastmilk including hand expression and/or pumping, with the method noted in the record. Include a family support person in the teaching process.	Emphasize the importance of regular breast expression in maintaining lactation. Expression sessions need to be part of her daily routine. Pumping frequency and length guidelines are based on the method of expression, taking into account baby's age and mother's ability to maintain enough volume to support her infant's needs. If her supply begins to decrease, increased frequency and duration of pumping may increase production. Involvement of mother's support persons will enhance her lactation experience. 1,3,4,6,7

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
	Hand expression may produce more milk due to the breast massage and skin contact involved with hand expression. <sup>5</sup>

# POLICY # 7 REFERENCES

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Pacifiers will not be given to breastfeeding infants.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Pacifiers will not be given to breastfeeding infants. Mothers will be encouraged to breastfeed frequently in response to hunger cues.	production. When an infant needs to suck

#### POLICY # 8 REFERENCES

- 1. Howard, C. R., et al. (1999). The effects of early pacifier use on breastfeeding duration. *Pediatrics*, 103, 659.
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#### **EXPANDED HOSPITAL POLICY #9**

Supplementary water or artificial infant milk will not be given to breastfeeding infants unless specifically ordered for a clinical condition by the physician. Maternal consent specifying the risks of introducing artificial infant milk to the newborn will be required prior to beginning artificial feeding of any infant.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE	
Breastfeeding infants will be given only breastmilk. Sterile water, glucose water or artificial infant milk feedings will not be a part of the standard orders and will not be given without a specific written order by the attending physician.	Colostrum and breastmilk will completely meet the normal newborn's nutritional and fluid needs (provides 17-20 cal./oz.). 8,9 Colostrum is the least noxious substance if aspirated. 9 Water interferes with breastfeeding and fills the baby with nonnutritive fluid so that the baby is not hungry. This decreases the frequency of breastfeeding, which in turn decreases the mother's milk supply. 3,4,5,8	
When supplementation is medically indicated, an alternate feeding method should be utilized to maintain mother-infant breastfeeding skills. Artificial feeding should not exceed the physiologic capacity of the newborn stomach.	Some infants may have difficulty transitioning between an artificial nipple and the breast. Alternate feeding methods may be helpful in maintaining breastfeeding skills. Alternate feeding methods include cup, dropper, gavage, finger or syringe. Care should be taken to not exceed the physiologic capacity of the newborn stomach. In the first few days of life, volumes of less than 20 cc should be given at each feeding. <sup>1,2,7,9,10,11</sup>	
Education regarding supplementation will be presented prior to obtaining a consent for supplementation (Appendix II). Risks of introducing artificial infant milk and/or water to the newborn will be discussed with the mother prior to supplementation.	Note policy # 4 for a list of potential risks for the infant who receives artificial infant milk or water or is fed by artificial feeding methods.	

#### POLICY # 9 REFERENCES

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#### **EXPANDED HOSPITAL POLICY #10**

Infants should remain at the mother's bedside both day and night. The nurse should plan with the mother and family for periods of rest and sleep.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Babies will be cared for at their mothers' bedside. Mother and family will be encouraged to assist with infant care.	Bonding, adaptation to extra-uterine life, and attachment are facilitated by the infant being with the mother. Caring for mother and baby together provides the opportunity for individualized teaching and enhances the mother's ability to learn her baby's cues. 1,4,7,8
The nurse may plan with the mother and family for at least 1-2 hours of undisturbed time to be with and focus on her baby during the hospital stay.	Rest is an important physiologic and psychological need for all postpartum, lactating mothers. With liberalized visiting hours, there may be limited time for mothers to rest, unless naps are planned. <sup>2,3,9</sup>
If, after encouragement to room in, the mother requests the baby to stay in the nursery at night, the infant should be brought to the mother to breastfeed when the baby displays hunger cues or every three hours, whichever is sooner.	Prolactin levels are highest at night and may contribute to optimal breastfeeding. Rooming-in provides additional opportunities for mothers and babies to establish effective nursing patterns prior to discharge. <sup>3,6,12</sup>
Evidence of patient teaching and professional recommendations will be documented in the patient's chart. An informed consent for supplementation plus a statement indicating the mother's request not to breastfeed during the night will be included in the patient chart.	Due to potential complications for mother and baby related to early supplementation of the breastfed infant, informed consent is essential. The mother needs to understand clearly the risks of introduction of artificial nipples, early introduction of artificial infant milk, and failure to optimally provide colostrum to the newborn (note policy #4).

#### INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT

If the mother is unable or refuses to feed her infant during the night, the infant will be fed in a manner that is consistent with preserving breastfeeding and reflects the skills and knowledge of the nursery staff in consultation with the infant's physician. Alternative feeding methods such as cup, finger, or tube feedings should be used to provide adequate calories to the newborn. Alternative feedings should include colostrum or breastmilk if available. The use of pacifiers, bottles with artificial nipples and water feedings will be discouraged (note policies #4 and #9).

#### **RATIONALE**

California law and hospital regulations guarantee the baby a safe place to be during the hospital stay. If the mother chooses not to participate in rooming-in or chooses not to breastfeed her baby during the night, it is the responsibility of the staff in consultation with the patient's physician to provide care that will best promote the long-term health of the mother and infant. Mothers who receive sedative drugs, are out of the room for surgical procedures or have an altered state of alertness should not bed-in with their newborn.<sup>10</sup>

#### POLICY # 10 REFERENCES

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#### **EXPANDED HOSPITAL POLICY #11**

At discharge, each mother will be referred to a breastfeeding support group and given the telephone number of a lactation specialist/consultant or community resource for breastfeeding assistance. Commercial advertising or promotional packs should not be given to any mother whether bottle-feeding or breastfeeding.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE
Patients will routinely be given a phone number to call and means of contacting other community resources for breastfeeding assistance.	Discharge often occurs before lactation and breastfeeding are well established. <sup>3,6,7,8,11</sup>
Postpartum follow-up calls will be provided for all mothers. This will provide an opportunity for offering support, identifying early problems and referring lactating mothers to appropriate resources.	Mothers are unlikely to call the care provider for breastfeeding assistance, however, mothers often have transient breastfeeding difficulties that can be resolved with reassurance and support from an experienced care provider. Early interventions for breastfeeding challenges can often avoid the detrimental effects of introducing artificial infant milk. 3,5,6,7,8,11
Nurses who are concerned about an infant's ability to latch on should inform the attending physician. Physicians will be educated to support the nutritional needs of the infant and support the mother's desire to breastfeed.	Nurses and physicians can assist in development and implementation of a discharge plan, which can meet both the infant's nutritional needs and the mother's breastfeeding goals. <sup>3,9</sup>
Gift packs containing items that discourage or negatively affect breastfeeding should not be given to any mother at discharge. These packs might contain pacifiers, formula, bottles, breast pumps, infant cereals, plasticlined breast pads and electrolyte replacement solutions.	Hospitals should carefully consider any items they give to mothers. Providing items to patients suggests hospital endorsement of these products. Giving formula advertising or promotional packs endorses supplementation and implies that breastmilk is inadequate to meet infants' needs. Hospital policies regarding patient and staff contact with pharmaceutical representatives should be enforced. 1.2,4

#### POLICY # 11 REFERENCES

- 1. Chezem, J. C., et al. (1998). Lactation duration: Influences of human milk replacements and formula samples on women planning postpartum employment. *JOGNN*, *27*, 646-651.
- 2. Dungy, C. I., et al. (1992). Effects of discharge samples on duration of breastfeeding. *Pediatrics*, *90*, 233-237.
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- 11. Wright, A., & Rice, S. (1996). Changing hospital practices to increase the duration of breastfeeding. *Pediatrics*, *97*, 669-675.

#### **EXPANDED HOSPITAL POLICY #12**

Hospital administration will foster formation of breastfeeding support groups.

INTERVENTION/MANAGEMENT	RATIONALE	
The hospital administration will provide space and cover operational costs to support local community lactation support groups or hospital-based breastfeeding support groups.		

#### POLICY # 12 REFERENCES

- 1. Locklin, M. P., & Jansson, M. J. (1999). Home visits: Strategies to protect the breastfeeding newborn at risk. *JOGNN*, *28*, 33-40.
- 2. Moore, E. R., et al. (1991). A community hospital-based breastfeeding counseling service. *Pediatric Nursing*, *17*, 383-389.
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#### Using the Hospital Self Appraisal Tool to Review Policies and Practices

Any hospital or health facility that is interested in receiving a Certificate of Intent to Support the Principles of the Global Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative should—as a first step—appraise its current practices in relation to the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.

The checklist that follows will permit a hospital, birthing center, or other health facility giving maternity care to make a quick initial appraisal or review of its practices in support of breastfeeding. Completion of this initial self-review form is the first stage of the process of meeting the requirements to receive a Certificate of Intent from the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. (In the United States, the baby-friendly designation process is still being developed; final recommendations will be issued in 1994.)

Hospitals are encouraged to bring their key management and clinical staff together to review the Self Appraisal Tool and develop a plan of action based on the results of the self appraisal. Suggestions for specific action for an in-house group of hospital management and clinical staff are to establish 1) a written breastfeeding policy, 2) a written curriculum for any training in lactation management given to hospital staff caring for mothers and babies, 3) a written outline of the content to be covered in antenatal health education about breastfeeding. Existence of such written documents provides evidence of on-going institutional commitment to breastfeeding and ensures continued promotion even with changes in staff. Consultation with the U.S. Committee for UNICEF can provide more information on policies and training that will contribute to increasing the Baby-Friendliness of health facilities.

For more information contact: Minda Lazarov U.S. Committee for UNICEF 615-322-2470

HOSPITAL DATA S	HEET		Date	, 19
If no nursery for norr	nal well newborns exis	sts, write "none" in space prov	rided.	
Hospital Name:				
Address:				
City, District, or Regi	on:		Country:	
Name of Chief Hosp	ital Administrator:		Telephone:	
		personnel in charge):	Talanhana	
			Telephone:	
			Telephone:	
			Telephone:	
Name of per	son to be contacted to	r additional information:		
Type of Hospital:	Government	Private - Not for profit	Private - For profit	
	Mission	Teaching	Other:	
Total bed capacity: in labour and in the materr in the norma in the specia in other area	d delivery area nity ward I nursery	dren		
Total Deliveries in ye	ear 199:			
were by Cae	sarean		Caesarean rate	%
were low birt	h weight babies (<250	10g)	Low birth weight rate _	%
were in spec	ial care		Special care rate	%
mother /infar mother/infan mother/infan discharge in infants disch	t pairs breastfeeding e the past month		_	% %
From record				
Name of person(s) fil	lling out this form:	·		

<u>STEP</u>	1. Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely communicated to all health care staff.
1.1	Does the health facility have an explicit written policy for protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding that addresses all 10 steps
	to successful breastfeeding in maternity services
1.2	Does the policy protect breastfeeding by prohibiting all promotion of and group instruction for using breastmilk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats?
	and teats:
1.3	Is the breastfeeding policy available so all staff who take care of mothers and babies can refer to it?
1.4	Is the breastfeeding policy posted or displayed in all areas
	of the health facility which serve mothers, infants, and/or children? Yes No
1.5	Is there a mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy? Yes No
STEP	2. Train all health care staff in skills necessary to implement this policy.
2.1	Are all staff aware of the advantages of breastfeeding and acquainted with the facility's policy and services to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding?
2.2	Are all staff caring for women and infants oriented to the breastfeeding policy of the hospital on their arrival?
2.3	Is training on breastfeeding and lactation management given to all staff caring for women and infants within six months of their arrival?
2.4	Does the training cover at least eight of the Ten Steps to Successful  Breastfeeding?
2.5	Is the training on breastfeeding and lactation management at least
2.0	18 hours in total, including a minimum of 3 hours of supervised clinical experience?
2.6	Has the healthcare facility arranged for specialized training in lactation management of specific staff members?
STEP	3. Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
3.1	Does the hospital include an antenatal care clinic? Or an antenatal inpatient ward?
3.2	If yes, are most pregnant women attending these antenatal services informed about the benefits and management of breastfeeding?

3.3	Do antenatal records indicate whether breastfeeding has been		¬ —
	discussed with the pregnant woman?	. Yes	_ No _
3.4	Is a mother's antenatal record available at the time of delivery?	Yes [	No _
3.5	Are pregnant women protected from oral or written promotion		
	of group instruction for artificial feeding?	Yes [	] No [
3.6	Does the healthcare facility take into account a woman's intention to breastfeed		
	when deciding on the use of a sedative, an analgesic, or an anesthetic,		
	(if any) during labour and delivery?	Yes [	No 🗌
3.7	Are staff familiar with the effects of such medicaments on breastfeeding?	Yes [	] No [
3.8	Does a woman who has never breastfed or who has previously		
	encountered problems with breastfeeding receive special		
	attention and support from the staff of the healthcare facility?	Yes [	] No [
STEP	4. Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within a half-hour of birth.		
<u> </u>	n neigh memere minute Brodette Guing minima han-near or brittle		
4.1	Are mothers whose deliveries are normal given their babies to hold,		
	with skin contact, within a half-hour of completion of the second stage		
	of labour and allowed to remain with them for at least the first hour?	Yes [	] No [
4.2	Are the mothers offered help by a staff member to initiate		
	breastfeeding during this first hour?	Yes [	No 🗌
4.3	Are mothers who have had caesarean deliveries given their babies to		
	hold, with skin contact, within a half hour after they are able to respond		
	to their babies?	Yes [	No 🗌
4.4	Do the babies born by caesarean stay with their mothers, with		
	skin contact, at this time for at least 30 minutes?	Yes [	No 🗌
STEP	5. Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation,		
	even if they should be separated from their infants.		
5.1	Does nursing staff offer all mothers further assistance with breastfeeding		
	within six hours of delivery?	Yes _	No 🗌
5.2	Are most breastfeeding mothers able to demonstrate how to correctly		
	position and attach their babies for breastfeeding?	Yes	No 🗌
5.3	Are breastfeeding mothers shown how to express their milk or given		
	information on expression and/or advised of where they can get help,		
	should they need it?	Yes	No 🗌

5.4	Are staff members or counselors who have specialized training breastfeeding and lactation management available full-time to mothers during their stay in healthcare facilities and in preparation.	advise
	for discharge?	Yes No
5.5	Does a woman who has never breastfed or who has previous encountered problems with breastfeeding receive special attention and support from the staff of the healthcare facility?	
	attention and support from the stan of the healthcare facility:	Tes NO
5.6	Are mothers of babies in special care helped to establish and maintain lactation by frequent expression of milk?	
STEP	9 6. Give newborn infants no food or drink other than	n breastmilk, unless medically indicated.
6.1	Do staff have a clear understanding of what the few acceptable for prescribing food or drink other than breastmilk for breastfe	
6.2	Do breastfeeding babies receive no other food or drink (than breastmilk) unless medically indicated?	Breastmilk only Yes Some other food/drink No
6.3	Are any breastmilk substitutes including special formulas which in the facility purchased in the same way as any other foods of	
6.4	Do health facility and health care workers refuse free or low-consupplies of breastmilk substitutes, paying close to retail market for any?	et price
6.5	Is all promotion of infant foods or drinks other than breastmilk from the facility?	
STEP	7. Practice rooming-in—allow mothers and infants to	remain together— 24 hours a day.
7.1	Do mothers and infants remain together (rooming-in or bedding 24 hours a day, except for periods of up to an hour for hospits or if separation is medically indicated?	al procedures
7.2	Does rooming-in start within an hour of a normal birth?	
7.3	Does rooming-in start within an hour when a caesarean moth respond to her baby?	

\*Low-cost: below 80% open-market retail cost. Breastmilk substitutes intended for experimental use of "professional evaluation" should also be purchased at 80% or more of retail prices.

#### STEP 8. Encourage breastfeeding on demand.

8.1	By placing no restrictions on the frequency or length of breastfeeds, do staff show they are aware of the importance of breastfeeding on demand? Yes No
8.2	Are mothers advised to breastfeed their babies whenever their babies are hungry and as often as their babies want to breastfeed?
STEP	9. Give no artificial teats or pacifiers (also called dummies or soothers to breastfeeding infants.
9.1	Are babies who have started to breastfeed cared for without any bottlefeeds?
9.2	Are babies who have started to breastfeed cared for without using pacifiers?
9.3	Do breastfeeding mothers learn that they should not give any bottles or pacifiers to their babies?
9.4	By accepting no free or low-cost feeding bottles, teats, or pacifiers, do the facility and the health workers demonstrate that these should be avoided?
STEP	10. Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support and refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.
10.1	Does the hospital give education to key family members so that they can support the breastfeeding mother at home?
10.2	Are breastfeeding mothers referred to breastfeeding support groups, if any are available?
10.3	Does the hospital have a system of follow-up support for breastfeeding mothers after they are discharged, such as early postnatal or lactation clinic check-ups, home visits, telephone calls?
10.4	Does the facility encourage and facilitate the formation of mother-to-mother or healthcare worker-to-mother support groups?
10.5	Does the facility allow breastfeeding counseling by trained mother-support group counselors in its maternity services?

### APPENDIX TO THE UNITED STATES BABY-FRIENDLY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

#### Acceptable medical reasons for supplementation

A few medical indications in a maternity facility may require that individual infants be given fluids or food in addition to, or in place of, breastmilk.

It is assumed that severely ill babies, babies in need of surgery, and very low birth weight infants will be in a special care unit. Their feeding will be individually decided, given their particular nutritional requirements and functional capabilities, though breastmilk is recommended whenever possible. These infants in special care are likely to include:

- infants with very low birth weight (less than 1500 grams) or who are born before 32 weeks gestational age
- infants with severe dysmaturity with potentially severe hypoglycemia, or who require therapy for hypoglycemia, and who do not improve through increased breastfeeding or by being given breastmilk

For babies who are well enough to be with their mothers on the maternity ward, there are very few indications for supplements, in order to assess whether a facility is inappropriately using fluids or breastmilk substitutes, any infants receiving additional supplements must have been diagnosed as:

- infants whose mothers have severe maternal illness (e.g. psychosis, eclampsia, or shock)
- infants with inborn errors of metabolism (e.g. galactosemia, phenylketonuria, maple syrup urine disease)
- infants with acute water loss, for example during phototherapy for jaundice, whenever increased breastfeeding or use of expressed breastmilk cannot provide adequate hydration
- infants whose mothers require medication which is contraindicated when breastfeeding (e.g. cytotoxic drugs, radioactive drugs, and anti-thyroid drugs other than propylthiouracil)

When breastfeeding has to be temporarily delayed, interrupted, or supplemented, mothers should be helped to establish or maintain lactation, or example through manual or hand-pump expression of milk, in preparation for the moment when full breastfeeding may be begun or resumed. If the interruption is due to problems with the infant, milk can be expressed, stored if necessary, and provided to the infant as soon as medically advisable, if it is due to a maternal medication or disease which negatively affects the quality of milk, the milk should be pumped and discarded.

#### Consent to Supplement Newborn Infants

The American Academy of Pediatrics says that routine supplements of formula for breastfed infants should not be used. The nursery at "XYZ" Hospital does not routinely supplement babies with water or formula for the following reasons:

- Cow's milk formula can set up a potential allergic response.
- The suck on a bottle is different from the suck on a breast. A breastfed baby can become nipple confused and have difficulty latching on to the breast.
- Formula is slower to digest than human milk which increases the time between feedings.
- Studies have shown feeding a healthy term newborn on demand without supplements encourages early milk production (24-48 hrs.), decreases chances of jaundice and provides better weight gain for infants.

			AM
DA	ATE:	TIME:	PM
I,	<u>.</u>	, authorize the	nurses to supplement
	(Patient's Signature)		
	•	with	
	(Baby's Name)	(Sterile Wa	ter, Glucose Water, Formula)
	in the	e following situations:	
<i>[]</i>			
	at mother's di	scretion during the	night
		ues to cry after nursing	
		nerapy sessions	
		•	
Sig	mature of Mother	Witness	

#### SAMPLE INSURANCE LETTER

Date:
RE: Insured: Policy #
The following explanation of medical necessity is provided in order to expedite authorization of insurance coverage for an electric breast pump.
Your member delivered an infant on (ill or immature) to
, and the child is too (ill or immature) to breastfeed. It is well established that breast milk provides optimal infant nutrition for the first several months of life. Therefore, I encourage all mothers of premature or high risk newborns to pump their breasts in order to supply milk for their hospitalized infants and to maintain lactation until their baby can breastfeed.
The intermittent electric breast pump is by far the most efficient and effective means of simulating the sucking action of a breastfeeding infant. Hand, battery and small electric pumps are an adjunct to milk expression for occasional use when a breastfeeding infant and mother are separated for a short time. A piston style electric pump is essential for the maintenance of an adequate milk supply whenever the child is unable to breastfeed. Such pumps cost \$900.00 to purchase. We expect this mother to need to pump for a minimum of weeks. Pump rental costs approximately per month.
The electric pump will be necessary until the infant is able to take all required nutrition by breastfeeding (anticipated date). An electric breast pump is not just a convenience for the mother, but also a medical necessity for this child.
Sincerely,
Neonatologist

#### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Work Group on Breastfeeding

#### Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk

ABSTRACT. This policy statement on breastfeeding replaces the previous policy statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics, reflecting the considerable advances that have occurred in recent years in the scientific knowledge of the benefits of breastfeeding, in the mechanisms underlying these benefits, and in the practice of breastfeeding. This document summarizes the benefits of breastfeeding to the infant, the mother, and the nation, and sets forth principles to guide the pediatrician and other health care providers in the initiation and maintenance of breastfeeding. The policy statement also delineates the various ways in which pediatricians can promote, protect, and support breastfeeding, not only in their individual practices but also in the hospital, medical school, community, and nation.

ABBREVIATION. AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics.

#### HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION

Pediatrics (AAP) has been a staunch advocate of breastfeeding as the optimal form of nutrition for infants. One of the earliest AAP publications was a 1948 manual, Standards and Recommendations for the Hospital Care of Newborn Infants. This manual included a recommendation to make every effort to have every mother nurse her full-term infant. A major concern of the AAP has been the development of guidelines for proper nutrition for infants and children. The activities, statements, and recommendations of the AAP have continuously promoted breastfeeding of infants as the foundation of good feeding practices.

#### THE NEED

Extensive research, especially in recent years, documents diverse and compelling advantages to infants, mothers, families, and society from breastfeeding and the use of human milk for infant feeding. These include health, nutritional, immunologic, developmental, psychological, social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Human milk is uniquely superior for infant feeding and is species-specific; all substitute feeding options differ markedly from it. The breastfed infant is the reference or normative model against which all alternative feeding methods must be measured with regard to growth, health, development, and all other short- and long-term outcomes.

The recommendations in this statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

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emv of Pediatrics.

Epidemiologic research shows that human milk and breastfeeding of infants provide advantages with regard to general health, growth, and development, while significantly decreasing risk for a large number of acute and chronic diseases. Research in the United States, Canada, Europe, and other developed countries, among predominantly middle-class populations, provides strong evidence that human milk feeding decreases the incidence and/or severity of diarrhea,1-5 lower respiratory infection,6-9 otitis media,3,10-14 bacteremia,15,16 bacterial meningitis,15,17 botulism,18 urinary tract infection,19 and necrotizing enterocolitis.20,21 There are a number of studies that show a possible protective effect of human milk feeding against sudden infant death syndrome, 22-24 insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus,25-27 Crohn's disease, 28,29 ulcerative colitis, 29 lymphoma, 30,31 allergic diseases,<sup>32–34</sup> and other chronic digestive diseases.<sup>35–37</sup> Breastfeeding has also been related to possible enhancement of cognitive development. 38,39

There are also a number of studies that indicate possible health benefits for mothers. It has long been acknowledged that breastfeeding increases levels of oxytocin, resulting in less postpartum bleeding and more rapid uterine involution. Lactational amenorrhea causes less menstrual blood loss over the months after delivery. Recent research demonstrates that lactating women have an earlier return to prepregnant weight, delayed resumption of ovulation with increased child spacing, tender improved bone remineralization postpartum with reduction in hip fractures in the postmenopausal period, and reduced risk of ovarian cancer and premenopausal breast cancer.

In addition to individual health benefits, breastfeeding provides significant social and economic benefits to the nation, including reduced health care costs and reduced employee absenteeism for care attributable to child illness. The significantly lower incidence of illness in the breastfed infant allows the parents more time for attention to siblings and other family duties and reduces parental absence from work and lost income. The direct economic benefits to the family are also significant. It has been estimated that the 1993 cost of purchasing infant formula for the first year after birth was \$855. During the first 6 weeks of lactation, maternal caloric intake is no greater for the breastfeeding mother than for the nonlactating mother. 49.50 After that period, food and fluid intakes are greater, but the cost of this increased caloric intake is about half the cost of purchasing formula. Thus, a saving of >\$400 per child

for food purchases can be expected during the first year. 51,52

Despite the demonstrated benefits of breastfeeding, there are some situations in which breastfeeding is not in the best interest of the infant. These include the infant with galactosemia,53,54 the infant whose mother uses illegal drugs,55 the infant whose mother has untreated active tuberculosis, and the infant in the United States whose mother has been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. 56,57 In countries with populations at increased risk for other infectious diseases and nutritional deficiencies resulting in infant death, the mortality risks associated with not breastfeeding may outweigh the possible risks of acquiring human immunodeficiency virus infection.<sup>58</sup> Although most prescribed and over-thecounter medications are safe for the breastfed infant, there are a few medications that mothers may need to take that may make it necessary to interrupt breastfeeding temporarily. These include radioactive isotopes, antimetabolites, cancer chemotherapy agents, and a small number of other medications. Excellent books and tables of drugs that are safe or contraindicated in breastfeeding are available to the physician for reference, including a publication from the AAP.55

#### THE PROBLEM

Increasing the rates of breastfeeding initiation and duration is a national health objective and one of the goals of Healthy People 2000. The target is to "increase to at least 75% the proportion of mothers who breastfeed their babies in the early postpartum period and to at least 50% the proportion who continue breastfeeding until their babies are 5 to 6 months old."59 Although breastfeeding rates have increased slightly since 1990, the percentage of women currently electing to breastfeed their babies is still lower than levels reported in the mid-1980s and is far below the Healthy People 2000 goal. In 1995, 59.4% of women in the United States were breastfeeding either exclusively or in combination with formula feeding at the time of hospital discharge; only 21.6% of mothers were nursing at 6 months, and many of these were supplementing with formula.60

The highest rates of breastfeeding are observed among higher-income, college-educated women >30 years of age living in the Mountain and Pacific regions of the United States. 60 Obstacles to the initiation and continuation of breastfeeding include physician apathy and misinformation, 61-63 insufficient prenatal breastfeeding education,64 disruptive hospital policies,65 inappropriate interruption of breastfeeding,62 early hospital discharge in some populations,66 lack of timely routine follow-up care and postpartum home health visits,67 maternal employment<sup>68,69</sup> (especially in the absence of workplace facilities and support for breastfeeding),70 lack of broad societal support,71 media portrayal of bottle-feeding as normative,<sup>72</sup> and commercial promotion of infant formula through distribution of hospital discharge packs, coupons for free or discounted formula, and television and general magazine advertising.73,74

The AAP identifies breastfeeding as the ideal

method of feeding and nurturing infants and recognizes breastfeeding as primary in achieving optimal infant and child health, growth, and development. The AAP emphasizes the essential role of the pediatrician in promoting, protecting, and supporting breastfeeding and recommends the following breastfeeding policies.

#### RECOMMENDED BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES

- 1. Human milk is the preferred feeding for all infants, including premature and sick newborns, with rare exceptions. 75-77 The ultimate decision on feeding of the infant is the mother's. Pediatricians should provide parents with complete, current information on the benefits and methods of breastfeeding to ensure that the feeding decision is a fully informed one. When direct breastfeeding is not possible, expressed human milk, fortified when necessary for the premature infant, should be provided. Pefore advising against breastfeeding or recommending premature weaning, the practitioner should weigh thoughtfully the benefits of breastfeeding against the risks of not receiving human milk.
- Breastfeeding should begin as soon as possible after birth, usually within the first hour. SO-SO Except under special circumstances, the newborn infant should remain with the mother throughout the recovery period. SO.SO.SO.SO.Procedures that may interfere with breastfeeding or traumatize the infant should be avoided or minimized.
- 3. Newborns should be nursed whenever they show signs of hunger, such as increased alertness or activity, mouthing, or rooting.85 Crying is a late indicator of hunger.86 Newborns should be nursed approximately 8 to 12 times every 24 hours until satiety, usually 10 to 15 minutes on each breast. 87,88 In the early weeks after birth, nondemanding babies should be aroused to feed if 4 hours have elapsed since the last nursing.89,90 Appropriate initiation of breastfeeding is facilitated by continuous roomingin.91 Formal evaluation of breastfeeding performance should be undertaken by trained observers and fully documented in the record during the first 24 to 48 hours after delivery and again at the early follow-up visit, which should occur 48 to 72 hours after discharge. Maternal recording of the time of each breastfeeding and its duration, as well as voidings and stoolings during the early days of breastfeeding in the hospital and at home, greatly facilitates the evaluation process.
- 4. No supplements (water, glucose water, formula, and so forth) should be given to breastfeeding newborns unless a medical indication exists. 92-95 With sound breastfeeding knowledge and practices, supplements rarely are needed. Supplements and pacifiers should be avoided whenever possible and, if used at all, only after breastfeeding is well established. 93-98
- 5. When discharged <48 hours after delivery, all breastfeeding mothers and their newborns should be seen by a pediatrician or other knowledgeable health care practitioner when the newborn is 2 to 4 days of age. In addition to determination of

infant weight and general health assessment, breastfeeding should be observed and evaluated for evidence of successful breastfeeding behavior. The infant should be assessed for jaundice, adequate hydration, and age-appropriate elimination patterns (at least six urinations per day and three to four stools per day) by 5 to 7 days of age. All newborns should be seen by 1 month of age.<sup>99</sup>

6. Exclusive breastfeeding is ideal nutrition and sufficient to support optimal growth and development for approximately the first 6 months after birth. On Infants weaned before 12 months of age should not receive cow's milk feedings but should receive iron-fortified infant formula. Oradual introduction of iron-enriched solid foods in the second half of the first year should complement the breast milk diet. Oz. It is recommended that breastfeeding continue for at least 12 months, and thereafter for as long as mutually desired.

7. In the first 6 months, water, juice, and other foods are generally unnecessary for breastfed infants. <sup>105,106</sup> Vitamin D and iron may need to be given before 6 months of age in selected groups of infants (vitamin D for infants whose mothers are vitamin D-deficient or those infants not exposed to adequate sunlight; iron for those who have low iron stores or anemia). <sup>107–109</sup> Fluoride should not be administered to infants during the first 6 months after birth, whether they are breast- or formula-fed. During the period from 6 months to 3 years of age, breastfed infants (and formula-fed infants) require fluoride supplementation only if the water supply is severely deficient in fluoride (<0.3 ppm). <sup>110</sup>

8. Should hospitalization of the breastfeeding mother or infant be necessary, every effort should be made to maintain breastfeeding, preferably directly, or by pumping the breasts and feeding expressed breast milk, if necessary.

#### ROLE OF PEDIATRICIANS IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING BREASTFEEDING

To provide an optimal environment for breastfeeding, pediatricians should follow these recommendations:

1. Promote and support breastfeeding enthusiastically. In consideration of the extensive published evidence for improved outcomes in breastfed infants and their mothers, a strong position on behalf of breastfeeding is justified.

Become knowledgeable and skilled in both the physiology and the clinical management of

breastfeeding.

- 3. Work collaboratively with the obstetric community to ensure that women receive adequate information throughout the perinatal period to make a fully informed decision about infant feeding. Pediatricians should also use opportunities to provide age-appropriate breastfeeding education to children and adults.
- 4. Promote hospital policies and procedures that facilitate breastfeeding. Electric breast pumps

and private lactation areas should be available to all breastfeeding mothers in the hospital, both on ambulatory and inpatient services. Pediatricians are encouraged to work actively toward eliminating hospital practices that discourage breastfeeding (eg, infant formula discharge packs and separation of mother and infant).

- 5. Become familiar with local breastfeeding resources (eg, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children clinics, lactation educators and consultants, lay support groups, and breast pump rental stations) so that patients can be referred appropriately.<sup>111</sup> When specialized breastfeeding services are used, pediatricians need to clarify for patients their essential role as the infant's primary medical care taker. Effective communication among the various counselors who advise breastfeeding women is essential.
- 6. Encourage routine insurance coverage for necessary breastfeeding services and supplies, including breast pump rental and the time required by pediatricians and other licensed health care professionals to assess and manage breastfeeding.
- Promote breastfeeding as a normal part of daily life, and encourage family and societal support for breastfeeding.
- 8. Develop and maintain effective communications and collaboration with other health care providers to ensure optimal breastfeeding education, support, and counsel for mother and infant.
- 9. Advise mothers to return to their physician for a thorough breast examination when breastfeeding is terminated.
- Promote breastfeeding education as a routine component of medical school and residency education.
- 11. Encourage the media to portray breastfeeding as positive and the norm.
- 12. Encourage employers to provide appropriate facilities and adequate time in the workplace for breast-pumping.

#### CONCLUSION

Although economic, cultural, and political pressures often confound decisions about infant feeding, the AAP firmly adheres to the position that breastfeeding ensures the best possible health as well as the best developmental and psychosocial outcomes for the infant. Enthusiastic support and involvement of pediatricians in the promotion and practice of breastfeeding is essential to the achievement of optimal infant and child health, growth, and development.

Work Group on Breastfeeding, 1996 to 1997 Lawrence M. Gartner, MD, Chairperson Linda Sue Black, MD Antoinette P. Eaton, MD Ruth A. Lawrence, MD Audrey J. Naylor, MD, DrPH Marianne E. Neifert, MD Donna O'Hare, MD Richard J. Schanler, MD LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES
Michael Georgieff, MD
Committee on Nutrition
Yvette Piovanetti, MD
Committee on Community Health Services
John Queenan, MD
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

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#### Resources

If you have any questions regarding this guide:

Inland Counties Regional Perinatal Programs of California Loma Linda University Children's Hospital 11234 Anderson Street Post Office Box 2000, Room 3348 Loma Linda, California 92354

Phone: (909) 824-4359 FAX: (909) 478-4167

E mail: cmelcher@ahs.llumc.edu

San Bernardino County Department of Public Health WIC Breastfeeding Program
351 N. Mountain View Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415

Phone: (909) 387-6315 or

(909) 387-6336

Wellstart International Corporate Headquarters 4062 First Avenue San Diego, California 92103-2045

Phone: (619) 295- 5192 FAX: (619) 294-7787 Breastfeeding Helpline: (619) 295-5193

These policies are available on the Internet HTTP\\WWW Breastfeeding.org Breastfeeding Coalition of the Inland Empire, model policies.

# Regional Breastfeeding Coalitions in California

## Northern California

Name of Coalition	Contact Person	Phone #	Fax#
Alameda County Breastfeeding Task Force	Lyn Diana, RD, MA	(510) 628-7798	(510) 628-7890
Bay Area & Coastal Counties WIC Regional	Anne Garrett, RN, IBCLE	(650) 573-2955	(650) 577-9223
Network (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey,			
San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara,			
Santa Cruz, Solano Counties)			
Breastfeeding Advisory Committee for San Mateo	Anne Garrett	(650) 573-2955	(650) 577-9223
Breastfeeding Coalition of Greater Sacramento	Janet Hill, RD, CLE	(916) 427-1134	(916) 395-7314
Breastfeeding Council of Tehama County	Sue Mitchell, RD	(916) 527-8791	(916) 527-6150
Breastfeeding Task Force of Humboldt County	Ninon McCullough, RN	(707) 445-6210	(707) 441-5686
Breastfeeding Task Force of Solono County	Teri Broadhurst, MPH, RD, CLC	(707) 435-2212	(707) 435-2217
Contra Costa Breastfeeding Task Force	Nancy Hill, MS, RD, CLE	(925) 313-6260	(925) 313-6708
El Dorado County Breastfeeding Task Force	Betsy Tapper	(530) 573-3383	
The Oroville Community Coalition for	Debbie Pierce, RN, PHN	(916) 891-2869	(916) 891-8743
Breastfeeding			
Northern California Breastfeeding Coaltion (Santa	Margaret Bregger	(707) 544-4506	(707) 526-1016
Rosa)		Est. 739	
San Francisco Breastfeeding Promotion Coalition	Elaine Jewell	(415) 822-1406	
Santa Clara Valley Breastfeeding Task Force	Kathy Sweeney, RD, CLE	(408) 299-7004	(408) 287-9793
Santa Cruz County Breastfeeding Coalition	Roberta Barnett, RN, MS	(408) 454-4772	(408) 454-4982
Shasta County Breastfeeding Coalition	Susan Ann Spencer, IBCLC, CCE	(530) 245-6466	(530) 225-5722
Siskiyou County Breastfeeding Task Force	Patty Leal, RN, PHN, CLE	(916) 842-8242	(916) 841-0424
Yuba/Sutter Breastfeeding Task Force	Kathy Ang, RD	(916) 742-4993	(916) 742-2599

Regional Breastfeeding Coalitions in California, Continued

## Central California

Name of Coalition	Contact Person	Phone #	Fax#
The Breastfeeding Coalition of Stanislans County	Duster Harris, PHN	(209) 558-6815	(209) 558-8315
D	or Monica Denofra	(209) 558-7377	(209) 558-7508
Central California WIC Breastfeeding Coalition	Julie Casillas, RD, CLE	(559) 263-1380	(559) 263-1152
Kern County Breastfeeding Promotion Coalition	Linda Erb	(805) 868-0523	(805) 868-0225
Kings County Breastfeeding Coalition	Gloria Pierson, PHN	(559) 582-2795	(559) 582-0927
	or Suzy Hendrickson, CLE	(559) 582-0180	(559) 582-0927
Invo-Mono Counties: Breastfeeding is Best (group)	Carolyn Balliet	(760) 934-5410	(760) 924-5467
Modoc County Breastfeeding Coalition	Joyce Miller RN, PHN, CLC	(530) 233-6311	(530) 233-5754
Breastfeeding Coalition of San Joaquin County; A	Kay Ruhstaller, RD	(209) 472-7093	(209) 472-9802
subcommittee of the Healthier Community Coalition			

## Southern California

Name of Coalition	Contact Person	Phone #	Fax#
Antelope Valley Breastfeeding Coalition	Sonja Beck, CLE	(661) 726-6441	
The Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los	Kiran Saluja, MPH, RD	(626) 856-6650	(626) 813-9390
Angeles			
Breastfeeding Coalition of San Luis Obispo	Christine Bisson, RD, CLE	(805) 781-5151	(805) 781-1217
North Santa Barbara (Santa Maria) Breastfeeding	Wrennette Hole, RD, CLE	(805) 346-8450	(805) 346-8243
Coalition			
Orange County Breastfeeding Coalition	Laurence Obaid, MS, RD, CLE	(714) 834-7986	(714) 834-8028
San Bernardino and Riverside Counties'	Carol Melcher, RNC, MPH, CLE	(909) 824-4359 Ext 2	(909) 478-4167
Breastfeeding Coalition of the Inland Empire			
San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition	Jo Ann Shaw, RD, IBCLC	(619) 505-3071	(619)569-7906
South Santa Barbara Breastfeeding Coalition	Meg Beard, MPH, CHES, RD, CLE	(805) 681-5276	(805) 569-7875
Ventura County Breastfeeding Coalition	Margie Wilcox Rose, RD, MPH,	(805) 652-3214	(805) 652-5921
	IBCLC		
WIC Consortium of Southern California	Kiran Saluja, MPH, RD	(626) 856-6650	(626) 813-9390